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1.00 " " " " " "	10 "
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[489]

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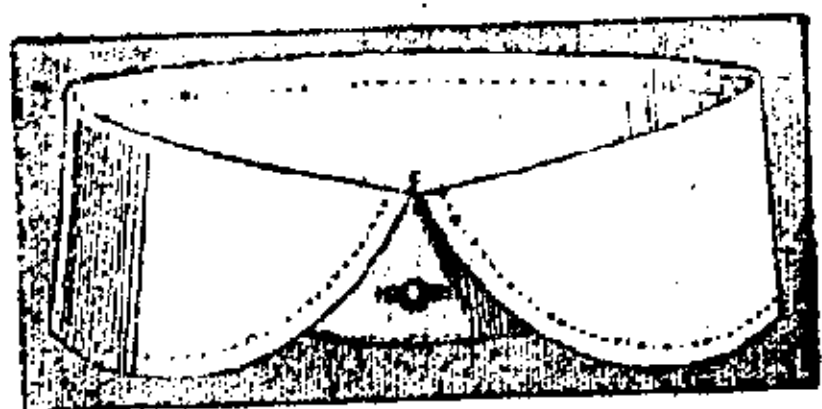


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[103]



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[CONTINUED.]

One of the compensations of life in Hongkong is the opportunity which it affords for meeting men of all nations. Europeans, Asiatics and Americans of varying characteristics are to be numbered not only among the residents but also among the numerous visitors who pass through.

A few days ago the writer was sitting in his office when a visiting card was brought in. The address on it was in Batavia, and the name of the visitor was obviously Dutch. When he introduced himself it was clear that he could speak English fluently. He professed great admiration for Hongkong, which he called "a wonderful place." He wanted to know all about its history, its trade and its finances. He was only "passing through," but he evidently wished to make the most of his time.

When he appeared to be more or less satisfied with the information placed at his disposal, it seemed only fair that he should impart some ideas from his own stock of knowledge. Batavia must be a place full of interest, and Hongkong does quite a considerable trade with the Dutch East Indies. It might be possible to find out whether economic progress is taking place, and it would be as well to learn, at first hand, what the Dutch think of the natives and the problems concerned with the government of their Empire in the Pacific. Their possessions lying between Singapore and Australia may be only the relic of a once glorious Colonial Empire, but they are valuable now that science has shown the white men how to exploit the natural wealth of the tropics.

A VISIT TO GERMANY.

It may be best to reproduce, as accurately as possible, the words of the rather juvenile Dutchman who said that he had been resident "in India"—as he called Java and her sister islands—for twenty-three years.

"I have just returned from Europe," he said. "I was one of a deputation to the Queen of Holland, with whom we had audience. I was the only Dutchman. The others were natives of Java. We went by sea to Gibraltar, where we were stopped by the blockade, so we travelled through Spain, France, Switzerland and Germany into Holland."

This was news indeed. "Is Germany feeling the pinch?" is the question in the minds of all of us who hope to witness an early collapse of our enemies.

"They are in a very bad way," continued the Dutch traveller. "It is difficult to obtain food, and the 'coffee' is not coffee, but made out of oak nuts. It is very nasty. There is no sugar, only saccharine. We were advised to take food from Switzerland. It is very dreadful to see the large number of permanently disabled men without legs and arms and eyes. Everywhere the people long for peace."

He had decided opinions about the end of the war, and as they are the same as we have in Hongkong it is unnecessary to enumerate them.

Then the conversation drifted back again to Java, and the new Far East. He had recently visited Japan, and the economic development of that country had astonished him. More surprises were in store for him in Shanghai, and he commented upon the output of the Japanese cotton-mills, and the fact that the Municipal Council at Shanghai now includes among its members a Japanese. "It is wonderful," he said, "especially the last few years," he said, "especially their system of education and their industrial development. It is a pattern for the natives of Java."

THE JAVANESE.
One never quite knows how impressions of a country not visited are formed. My own ideas about Java were, apparently, all wrong. The natives always seemed to me to be an idle people, with a rather loose outlook on life, and a fixed determination to do as little work as possible. It is a fact that poor Chinese have emigrated to the Dutch East Indies and have made fortunes there. That seemed to suggest that the Javanese were less industrious than the immigrant.

"Oh! no," said the man who had lived amongst them. "The natives are really very enterprising. They are most anxious to learn. It is only during the last few years that efforts have been made by the Government to encourage them. There is a good system of more or less elementary education. Next year there will be commenced the nucleus of a University. It would be called, at first, the Royal High School of Engineering, and in it will be taught Civil, Mechanical and Mining Engineering. We want to show the natives how to use machinery and enable them to study science."

(Continued at foot of next column.)

SHIPBUILDING IN JAPAN.
REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE INDUSTRY.

Up to the first half of 1915 the shipbuilding industry of Japan was rather in a small way, and the dockyards having stocks for the construction of vessels of over 1,000 tons numbered only nine, among them being the Mitsubishi, Kawasaki, Osaka Ironworks, Fuji-Nagata, Ono, Uruga, and Kuchiki dockyards. On account of the remarkable prosperity in the shipping trade that has since prevailed, however, the shipbuilding industry has undergone a great development in Japan, 17 new dockyards such as those of Inoshimu, Harima, Harata Asano, and Bingo, being established. In 1914 the new ships built totalled 86,000 tons and in 1915 the figure was 50,000, while it increased to 103,000 tons in 1916. This year the total tonnage of newly built steamers is expected to amount to a matter of 300,000 tons.

The following particulars of the more recent shipbuilding enterprises in Japan are supplied by the *Japan Chronicle*:—
The Asano Dockyard Co., which was established a few months ago at Tsurumi, Kanagawa Prefecture, by Mr. Asano, President of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, has four stocks and is now setting up two more. The workers at the yards number 3,000, and the management plan to build altogether 120,000 tons of large steamers before the end of the year.

The Yokohama Dockyard is about to increase its capital to about Y.10,000,000, and engage the services of Dr. Imakawa, an authority on shipbuilding. The company will specialize in building vessels of 1,000 or 2,000 tons, and will operate in conjunction with the Asano Dockyard.
The Yokohama Engine and Ironworks was purchased for Y.1,000,000 by Mr. Uchida Shingo, of the Uchida Kisen Kaisha. He will build new yards at Senjuku-cho, Kanagawa Prefecture, and arrangements are being made to build one steamer of 12,000 tons, two 5,000-ton vessels, and two 3,000-ton vessels.

The Ishikawashima Dockyard Co. has increased its capital from Y.3,000,000 to Y.5,000,000 in order to extend its operations. The Uruga Dockyard Co. has also taken a similar step.

Mr. Fujiyama Raita, the newly elected Chairman of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and President of the Dai Nippon Sugar Co., is engaged in the establishment of a dockyard company called the Nagoya Zosen-sha with a capital of from Y.3,000,000 to Y.5,000,000. It will build wooden vessels to begin with.

The Osaka Yogyo Kaisha, engaged in the ceramic industry, has also decided to undertake ship building, and contemplates building three steamers of 2,000 tons each by August of next year. The Nagoya Kisen Kaisha, which was recently established, also has under consideration a plan to take up a shipbuilding undertaking.

The Matsuda Dockyards, recently established by Mr. Matsuda, of the Matsuda Seisakusho, is building a few steamers of 1,500 tons each.

The Asahi Dockyards, on the Kidzuga, near Osaka, with a capital of Y.1,000,000, are arranging to build steamers of from 3,000 to 5,000 tons.

It appears that this centre of learning in the ceramic industry, at Goyakata, in the centre of Java. There is plenty of money to make a good commencement, and a great deal has come from Holland. The instruction will be in Dutch.

The object, continued my acquaintance, "is to keep the young Javanese in their own country. Formerly they went to Holland and wasted their time."

It was the old story. There are quite a number of young Chinese in the coast ports of China, and even in Peking, who have gone to America and Europe, and who have wasted not only their time, but their substance.

"There are schools in Java in which English is the language of instruction," proceeded my visitor, "and no doubt Chinese students come on to your University in Hongkong. There are about half-a-million Chinese in India, and they very much desire education."

"But what about the wealth of the place—are they working the mines and taking full advantage of the opportunities for cultivating crops?"

"It is being done," came the reply. "Especially is water-power being utilised, for generating electric-power. There is a great deal of water-power, and already plans are prepared for the electrification of the steam railways."

AFTER THE WAR.
It is a rich country with the possibility of a great future. We know how much the Germans wanted to annex it. It is not improbable that they succeeded in thoroughly alarming the Dutch. It is certain that they will attempt to take a prominent part in the commerce of these tropical islands when the war is over. There will not be many places where they will be allowed even a footing, but where they do settle they will work, and work hard.

There are fine motor roads and many modern conveniences in the Far Eastern Colonies of Holland. All the Eurasians are considered Dutch, and there are racial problems that will require tactful handling if they are to be solved without friction. These thoughts were passing through my mind when my visitor remarked:—

"I think we can show much progress in 'India,' but there is no place like Hongkong. It is wonderful what you English have done in so short a time in this Colony."

The fact that the remark was addressed to a man with a sense of humour saved my Dutch acquaintance a great deal of trouble. A Scotsman would have argued and made such elaborate explanations.

[122]

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CANTON, August 21st.

The Private Secretary and adviser of ex-President Li Yuan-hung arrived in Canton yesterday. They went to visit the Local Authorities and other notable persons with a special and secret errand.

Chan Ping-kwan has issued an order for the 3rd division, commanded by Cheung Kai-yu, to be despatched as soon as possible to Hunan.

A telegram from Tong Kai-yew (Tuchun of Yunnan) has been received by the Authorities in Canton stating that the Peking Government has obtained big loans by declaring war with Germany and getting money without the consent of Parliament. The telegram adds that the Peking Government is hastening the separation of the North and South and imperilling the peace of the Far East. Tong requests the Authorities to telegraph protests to Peking.

Chan Ping-kwan visited the Kwong Yum Mountain yesterday, and made a careful inspection of the forts.

Many telegrams have been received from the provinces wishing success to the forthcoming Parliament.

General Lung Chai-kwong is paying very special attention to Kingchow. It is said that he has bought 500 barrels of cement to build 13 additional forts, and his troops are busily engaged in this work.

After the declaration of war with Germany was officially transmitted to Canton, the Germans appeared to become alarmed. They held a meeting in the Dutch Consulate, and requested the Dutch Consul to appeal to the Local Authorities for defence. They also sent a list of their names, stating that they are not in any way connected with the naval or military services, and therefore they should be well treated and exempted from internment.

"SERVICES' ENTERTAINMENT FUND."

The following subscriptions to the above fund have been received by the Treasurer during the week ending August 21st, and are gratefully acknowledged:—

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T. ROBINSON

(General Secretary).

F. G. B. HASTINGS, R.N.

(Naval Secretary).

C. L. COOPER-HUNT, C.F.

(Military Sec. and Treasurer).

UNITED STATES FAR EASTERN TRADE.

America's trade with China and Japan has established a marked superiority over that of Great Britain. The Board of Trade returns for the first three months of the calendar year show that the exports of the United Kingdom to China amounted to about \$11,000,000, or rather less than \$3,700,000 a month against America's established average of \$4,500,000 a month. The British exports to Japan for the three months were only \$7,400,000 or less than \$2,500,000 a month against America's average of \$10,500,000. In the matter of imports from the two countries, the trade bulks still more largely on the American side. America's monthly average to China being \$7,500,000 as compared with the British \$4,000,000, while from Japan the American monthly average of imports has been \$10,700,000 against a British average of only \$7,000,000. All the above figures are gold.—*Millard's Review*.

It was the hour of the homeward rush, and the Tube lift was uncomfortably crowded. "Ah, well," gasped the Invincible Optimist, "when we've all been on rations for a month or two there'll be more room everywhere."

HONGKONG CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

MISSING BOY.

At the Hongkong Criminal Sessions yesterday, a Chinese woman was charged with kidnapping the five-year-old boy of her sister.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted, and the prisoner, who was not defended, entered a plea of not guilty.

The evidence went to show that the prisoner, some time in July, went to live with her sister in the West Point district, and, while there, she looked after the boy. One day the prisoner said she was going to Yumati, and that she would like to take the boy with her. This she did, but, upon her return, the boy was not with her, and he has not been seen since. The woman alleged that she took the boy to Yumati and back, and that when she was passing under a verandah, on her way home, a man passed between her and the boy, and that when the man had gone, the boy was nowhere to be seen.

Some of the witnesses stated that when the woman came back and told this story they did not believe her, and, after a fruitless search for the boy, they gave information to the police, and the woman was arrested.

The mother of the boy said that when her sister (the prisoner) expressed a desire to take the boy to Yumati she demurred, but the prisoner said, "It's all right, I will bring him back." This witness also expressed the opinion that the prisoner's brother had taken the boy, and that the prisoner was merely a dupe.

After hearing further evidence, the jury returned an unanimous verdict of "not guilty," and the woman was discharged.

COMPANY REPORT.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LTD.

The report of the directors to be presented at the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Hotel on September 1st, states:—

The profit on working account for the half year ended 30th June amounted to \$100,711.61 as compared with \$109,225.11 for the corresponding period of 1916, being a decrease of \$1,513.50.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$12,493.32 brought forward from 31st December, 1916, shows a credit balance of \$143,344.98, which the directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 8s per share on 20,000 shares ... \$ 60,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account ... 20,000.00
To write off steam launch ... 1,000.00
To carry forward to new account ... 62,344.98

Mr. Francis Maitland retires by rotation from the Directorate, but offers himself for re-election.

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 18th August is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate receipts for 33 weeks.
This Year	\$-2744	\$442,015
Last Year	18,022	476,700
Decrease	5,278	34,685

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO VOLUNTEER CORPS.

In celebration of the third anniversary of the Macao Volunteer Corps, and of the 88th anniversary of the taking of Passaleao Fort by the late Col. Mesquita, a very elaborate programme has been drawn up. From dawn to sunset the 25th inst. will be kept as a grand gala day. A contingent of the Hongkong Police Reserve, with their band, have been invited to attend and join the grand parade. At night there will be illuminations. Wreaths will be laid upon the graves of the late Macao hero, Col. Mesquita, and his colleagues by the inhabitants of the Colony.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

COMPANY PARADES.

The following parades will take place at Central Station. Uniform will not be worn. Fall in at 5.45 p.m.—
Wednesday, August 22nd.—No. 1 Section.
Thursday, August 23rd.—No. 2 Company.
No exemption from these parades is to be granted except by the undersigned.

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO VOLUNTEER CORPS.
The Detachment proceeding to Macao on Saturday, August 25th, will be under the Command of Chief Inspector D'Almeida, who will issue such orders from time to time as contingency may call for.

STRENGTH
Joined.—No. 2 Section, P.C. 650 S. R. Aitken.
(Sgd.) T. F. HONAN, Capt. A.S.P. (Reserve).
August 21st, 1917.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL.

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR,—I should like, through the medium of your columns, to express my appreciation of the direct and pointed criticisms of Mr. Davidson on the Military Service Bill, and would remind others who wish to criticize the measure and the Regulations that the time for doing so is very short, as the Bill is down to go through its remaining stages on Friday afternoon next.

I would add that it is an immense help to the public to receive suggestions from the public on any measure before the Council, whether relating to military service or otherwise.—Yours faithfully,

H. E. POLLOCK.

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR.—The Military Service Bill, so ably dealt with in Mr. E. Davidson's letter this morning, appears to be based upon the (Imperial) Military Service Acts of January and May, 1916, which introduced compulsory service into Great Britain.

The local Bill, however, omits the important words "for the period of the War," which occur in both the Home Acts.

Universal military service in peace time may be a very fine ideal (although it has a suspiciously Hunnish sound), but surely it deserves more consideration and debate than it is likely to receive from a jaded August Council in an atmosphere of thunderstorms and in the absence beyond the seas of the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce.—Yours faithfully,

F. B. L. BOWLEY.

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR.—We have heard something of the disadvantages of being subject to the Army Act, but are there not also advantages? I am told that the Act exempts those who come under its provisions from serving on juries and protects them from being sued for any sum beyond £40. If this is so it has my support, whatever commercial men may say to it.—Yours, etc.,

I. M. PECUNIOUS.

Hongkong, August 21st, 1917.

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR.—With reference to Mr. Davidson's comment on the Military Service Bill, it would be interesting to know whether the thousands of Chinese born in Hongkong come within the category of British subjects, and whether this Bill will apply to them.

Thanking you in anticipation—I am, Yours faithfully,

C. A. CHAN.

29, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, August 21st, 1917.

[Chinese born in Hongkong are British subjects, but it is not proposed at present to apply the Bill to them.—Ed., H.D.P.]

THE SERVICE DOLLAR

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR.—The gunner on a dollar a week and the private on 75 cents will no doubt be delighted to hear that the well-paid billet of Censor will in future go to Service men, as stated in your yesterday's issue under "Random Reflections." The Service men therein referred to will, no doubt, as hitherto, be officers—men who, let it be remembered, have not suffered sufficiently to make an effective effort to obtain a reduced dollar for themselves, and who have been comparatively indifferent to the hardships endured by their men.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

LOOKER-ON.

Hongkong, 21st August, 1917.

[We think that our correspondent is rather unjust. Men holding commissions have been very hard hit by the rise in exchange, and we have no doubt, feel every sympathy with the men under their command, even if they do not openly express it. As a class, they possess no special influence with the War Office, or it is certain they would use it.—Ed., H.D.P.]

"THE FRAWLEYS."

According to a Manila paper, "The Frawleys," who are due to open for a season at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening, reach the height of their all-round excellence in "The Outcast," which "has been hailed everywhere by critics and theatre-goers alike, as the best of the Frawley repertoire." The same paper adds: "Those who saw the performance of 'Fair and Warner' (with which the Company open in Hongkong on Saturday) may find this hard to believe." Newspaper criticisms to hand all speak in the best possible terms of "The Frawleys," and at Shanghai the Company have been drawing large houses for several weeks. This is their first visit to Hongkong, but it is evident that they have sent a reputation on ahead, for the booking is proceeding in a very satisfactory manner.

HONGKONG SANITATION.

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held yesterday. Mr. E. V. Carpmal presided, and those also present were:—Col. Crisp, Dr. Ozorio, and Messrs. F. B. L. Bowley, C. G. Alabaster, Chan Kai Ming and Ng Hon Tze, with Dr. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health), and Mrs. A. M. Gale (Acting Secretary).

DEALING WITH POULTRY.

Mr. Bowley asked:—What steps (if any) have been taken by the Government to carry out the recommendation made by the Board on the 12th December last, that the area of Crown Land lying between Des Vaux and Connaught Roads, opposite the Sailor's Home, should be laid out as a depot for the storage and sorting of poultry at the earliest possible date, such recommendation having been made with a view to the abatement of the nuisance occasioned by such storage and sorting in Ko Shing and Li Sing Streets?

The President replied that the matter had to stand over on the consideration of the estimates. H. E. the Governor decided that the matter should stand over.

Mr. Bowley then remarked that he had a supplementary question, which was whether the Head of the Sanitary Board and the Hon. Director of Public Works visited Ko Shing Street and Li Sing Street on the occasion of the Dragon Boat festival, as had been arranged, in order to see for themselves the nature and bulk of the business carried on. The matter had stood over on a previous occasion to allow of this visit being made.

The President said that the answer was in the affirmative. The Hon. Director of Public Works visited the place in the morning, and he (the President) visited the place both in the morning and in the afternoon. They both came to the conclusion that the suggested scheme was highly desirable, and recommended that it should be considered by the Board in the future. It was not a matter of urgency, and there were other matters which were much more urgent; for example, the refuse pits, which, he believed, would probably be carried out.

Mr. Alabaster asked if he was to understand that the answer to the principal question was that the Government had taken no steps, and that when it came to be considered in the estimates the Government would consider whether it would take steps or not.

The President replied that the matter would not be further considered in the estimates. That had been decided. Mr. Alabaster.—Then the real answer to the question is that the Government has decided to take no steps in the matter during the war?

The President.—Not "during the war," but it will stand over as far as consideration in the estimates is concerned.

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION.

Mr. Bowley moved the following resolution:—That the Board recommend the Government to extend to the sea, as soon as possible, the sewers draining the central portions of the Peak into the Western Aberdeen Valley below "The Falls." In doing so he said that the matter came before the Board at the last meeting in connection with a recommendation for the installation of modern conveniences at a large house about to be erected at the Peak, the owner of the house undertaking to provide an independent water supply. It was then pointed out by the Hon. Director of Public Works that the sewer which drained the site of the new house, with a number of other houses on the Peak, was, for a certain length, sufficient in size, but it did not discharge into the sea, as ideal sewers should; it discharged in Aberdeen Valley, near a house known as "The Falls."

It was suggested that in the interests of the sanitation of the district the sewer should be extended to the sea as soon as possible. The President moved that the application should stand over until the sewer had been extended. That motion was carried by the casting vote of the President against the unofficial minority. As the matter now stood there was no recommendation to the Board with regard to that sewer, but he thought it was the opinion of that Board, certainly the opinion of a good many members of the Board, that the sewer should be extended to the sea as soon as possible, and now that the water supply of the Colony was assured it was quite possible that many of the residents on the Peak would wish to adopt the latest sanitary conveniences. In that case it would not assist that consumption if the sewer was insufficient and the outfall undesirable. He believed that the district in question included not only a private hotel, but a number of large residences, also Government bungalows, a Government school, etc. It was very desirable that those living in the district should be provided with an efficient sewer. It was also desirable in the interests of the sanitation of the Colony that the sewer should be extended as soon as possible to an outfall in the sea. He believed that the western district of the Peak was drained into the sea, and also that the eastern part of the Peak was partially drained into the harbour and partially down Wanachai Gap, no doubt with the intention of extending that sewer to the sea. Mr. Alabaster seconded the resolution. He said it was the duty of the Government to construct a proper sewer, and a sewer which discharged into an open water course or on to an open foreshore was not a proper sewer. And if the Government had neglected its duty in the past by building half a sewer, now that the lapse had been pointed out to them they should lose no time in carrying the sewer out to the sea. He considered that all sewers should discharge into the sea, and he considered that it

(Continued at foot of next column.)

CHINESE SHOPKEEPER'S SUSPICIOUS DEATH.

Just before 10 a.m. yesterday, a Chinese shopkeeper, of Wing Lok Street, was found dead in his bed. His throat was cut very severely, and it is presumed that the shopkeeper was murdered while he was asleep. The keys of the shop, which the deceased usually wore around his waist, had been cut away, and the safe was ransacked. The amount of money stolen is not known, and a peculiar feature of the case is that eight other persons were sleeping on the premises at the time, and they were not disturbed by the occurrence.

Another account says that the deceased was found gagged and with his hands bound, but his throat was not cut, nor was there any other sign of injury. The money missing is said to amount to \$6,000.

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A naval officer having sought the aid of the Court of Appeal in connection with a decision of the Admiralty, the Master of the Rolls in his judgment made these remarks, which are of particular interest nowadays when nearly everybody comes under Service rules:—When a man became a member of the Navy or the Army he subjected himself to a code of law which ousted the jurisdiction of the ordinary Courts and provided redress for any grievance. The King's Regulations provided for a redress of grievance, but the plaintiff complained that he could not get damages by such a remedy. That might be so, but the Court had nothing to do with that. In the same way that it was in the public interest that no action could be brought against His Majesty's Judges for anything said or done in the course of their duties, the analogy of the cases decided on naval and military questions showed clearly that the order of the learned Judge was right, and the appeal therefore failed and must be dismissed, with costs.

should be done in this case, and also, as had been previously pointed out, at the Wanachai Praya foreshore.

The President remarked that he could not see that any case of urgency had been made out. Both the mover and seconder had said that the matter was desirable, but they did not tell them who were damaged by the present arrangement. Mr. Alabaster told them that it was desirable that all sewers should drain into the sea, but not why that particular sewer should. The statement in text books that sewers should drain into the sea did not refer to all sewers. It referred to the sewers carrying filthy matter, and the particular sewer referred to did not carry such matter. To justify the supporting of that motion it had to be shown that the matter was one of urgency, and that it was highly desirable to spend a large sum of money at the present moment. If members were satisfied that such was the case they would support the motion. If not they would vote otherwise. No complaints had been received relative to the sewer in question, nor had they heard of anyone being damaged by the present arrangement.

Mr. Alabaster remarked that the other day a very distinguished resident asked for permission to use that sewer for certain purposes, and permission was refused for the very reason, given by the Vice-President (Hon. Director of Public Works), that the sewer discharged into an open water course. Therefore, he thought that it was highly desirable that the matter should be seen to. It was a matter of the utmost importance to the health of the Colony that the sewer should discharge into the sea, and the Board should take up every case which came under its notice.

Dr. Pearce said that he was inclined to agree with Mr. Bowley's motion. He was also of the opinion that, as soon as possible, arrangements should be made for the drainage of the Peak, and other levels, to allow of the introduction of the water carriage system. He thought that many of the cases of typhoid fever, which were continually occurring among the European residents of Hongkong, were caused by infected food due to the Peak. In nearly every case of houses on the Peak, and on the lower levels, they would find not very far from the pantry windows a dry latrine, and there was every possibility of flies getting from that place into the pantry and on to the food. He thought if they could do away with the dry latrine system it would tend to the diminution of typhoid fever. As a matter of fact, he was inclined to further support Mr. Bowley if he moved that the Government be asked to adopt that system as soon as it possibly could.

The President, regarding the remarks of Dr. Pearce, said that they would be more properly directed to the general system of water carriage on the Peak, which they were not at present discussing. Dr. Ozorio supported Mr. Bowley's motion, and said that if the Government had not the money to spend at the present moment they should so curtail the estimates as to be in a position to do so in the near future.

Mr. Bowley added, in reply to the President, that everyone in the district was damaged by the fact that the sewer did not discharge into the sea. He thought the lower part of the valley was used for the cultivation of vegetables, and they were assuredly damaged by the fact that there was not a pure water supply. If there was a pure water supply the Dairy Farm Co. might even build a cowshed in the district; therefore he considered that the whole valley itself was damaged by the fact that it had not a pure water supply. The discharge from the sewer, he added, was sufficiently noxious to merit the resolution. In the absence of any proper sewage farm the sewer should be carried into the sea. The resolution was then put to the meeting and was carried, only the President voting against it.

EUROPEAN CHARGED WITH FALSE PRETENCES.

DEALINGS WITH A MONEY-CHANGER.

An European named J. W. P. Thomley, said to have been formerly in the employ of the British American Tobacco Co., was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday with false pretences. He was summoned by a money-changer named Chung Hing, of Pedder Street, for obtaining \$10 by false pretences, he having made a statement that Mr. S. Greenfield had money belonging to him.

Mr. Faithfull prosecuted. An employee of the money-changer's said that the defendant came to the shop, in which Mr. Greenfield has a partnership, and produced a piece of paper on which he wrote something. He stated that he was borrowing \$10. Defendant first of all asked for Mr. Greenfield, but witness said he was out. Defendant then asked for \$10, saying he had money with Mr. Greenfield. Defendant added, "I will give you a chit and you can give it to him." Witness paid out the \$10. He did not know whether Mr. Greenfield possessed money belonging to defendant, but he paid out on the strength of the chit.

Mr. Greenfield said that some months ago he met the defendant, who said he was employed by the British American Tobacco Co. He said he was in need of money and asked for \$300 as a loan. Witness was shown some good testimonials, including a letter from the Colonial Secretary. Witness was about to lend him the money when he asked for some person's name to be given as a guarantor. Defendant left, saying he would get a person, but did not return till three weeks after. He then asked for \$25, and witness lent him the money, receiving an I. O. U. He had not been paid the money, and he had no money of defendant's. He understood that defendant was not now in the employ of the B.A.T.

Defendant, giving evidence, said he was formerly employed as a traveller by the B.A.T. He went to the money-changer's and asked him if Mr. Greenfield was in. He was told he was not, and he then asked for \$10, saying he would give an I. O. U. He promised to pay at the end of the month. He never used Mr. Greenfield's name in connection with the \$10.

Mr. Dyer Ball intimated that he desired time to consider the facts, and he adjourned the case until Tuesday.

ELECTRIC CURRENT AT BIJOU THEATRE.

OWNERS FINED FOR MAKING ADDITIONS.

At the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday, before Mr. Wood, the Hongkong Electric Company, Ltd., summoned the owners of the Bijou Theatre for making additions to an electrical installation connected to the Company's main, without obtaining the written consent of the complainants thereto, and the owners were further charged that, being consumers within the meaning of Regulation No. 34 of the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Council under Section 3 of the Electricity Supply Ordinance 1911, such additions were found upon their premises.

Mr. A. M. Preston, who represented complainants, said that witnesses whom he could call on behalf of the Electric Company would say that on a catch in a row on the outside wall of the theatre in d'Aguilar Street, were ten lights over the entrance door. Six of these had been added to the Electric Company's installation without authority. The question of making additions to electrical installations was important, in view of the fact that the Company has a plant which is only just adequate for what it is now supplying. In spite of this, the public did not seem to realise the seriousness of making these additions. The only point he wished to make clear was that this kind of thing must stop, as it was very dangerous. In this case a type of wire was used, which was very dangerous and which was never allowed, and as a result the installation was made dangerous to the public attending the theatre. A fine of \$75 was inflicted.

DEATH OF A "BOY."

JUMPS FROM A WINDOW.

Mr. J. R. Wood, the Coroner, held an enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of a Chinese "boy," at the Hongkong Magistracy yesterday.

The Coroner said that on August 5th the deceased was at Blue Buildings, Praya East, in the custody of the Police. He had formerly been employed as a "boy" by the occupier, and at the time a charge of theft was being investigated. The deceased had been taken there by the Police, and, in the course of the investigations, the man took fright and jumped out of a window into a back yard, falling about 35 feet. He was taken to the hospital, but died the same day from the injuries he sustained.

Mr. Sullivan, of the Naval Ordnance Department, in whose employ the deceased formerly was, said that Inspector Sim brought the "boy" to his house. They were on the top floor. During conversation, Inspector Sim called out "Quick!" and witness then saw the boy rush past him into the bathroom. The window was open and the "boy" jumped out. Witness had over \$200 stolen from him and suspicions had fallen on the deceased. Dr. Koch stated that death was due to a fracture of the skull. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

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THE WAR.

ALLIES' STRUGGLE IN FLANDERS.

BATTLE OF VERDUN RENEWED.

FRENCH CAPTURE FOUR THOUSAND PRISONERS.

FIERCE BATTLE RAGING ON ITALIAN FRONT

BRITISH BATTERIES PARTICIPATING.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY MASSING FOR COUNTER-ATTACK DISPERSED.

LONDON, August 20th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our artillery dispersed the enemy massing for a counter-attack south-eastward of Epehy.

Our patrols made progress in the north-western outskirts of Lens.

Hostile raiders entered our lines eastward of Armentieres. Two men are missing.

Large formations of enemy aircraft well behind our lines unsuccessfully endeavoured to hinder our bombing and photographic reconnaissance.

Our machines wrecked trains and seriously damaged aerodromes, dumps and stations and effectively co-operated with our artillery and secured many photographs.

We brought down three and drove down four enemy machines. Six of our machines are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

BRITISH MORE THAN HOLD THEIR OWN.

LONDON, August 20th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—After sharp fighting, we completely repulsed a counter-attack at night against the positions we captured yesterday morning to the south-east of Epehy.

We successfully raided south of Lens and slightly advanced the line of the Ypres battle-front, south-east of St. Janshoek.

THE TANKS DO GOOD WORK.

LONDON, August 20th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters states that the appearance of the Tanks operating on ground which a few days ago was mainly under water is satisfactory testimony of the improvement in fighting conditions in Flanders. The German gunners are apparently completely surprised at the spectacle of the ungainly objects travelling on ground which they might suppose would engulf them.

Yesterday's German communiqué was intended to convey the idea that the Tank is a failure. The truth is that yesterday's attack proved the great value of the Tanks against the present system of disconnected defences.

That our casualties are so very small and our success so considerable, in face of the concentrated machine-gun fire which is encountered, is a conclusive tribute to the effectiveness of this weapon.

LATEST CABLES.

TANKS SURPRISE ENEMY.

LATER.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing this afternoon, describes the latest feats of the Tanks in the British attack in the region of St. Julien yesterday.

The uncouth monsters began to move in the darkness; the noise of the guns drowned their snorting as they took up their prearranged positions.

The enemy probably calculated upon the ground being in too bad a condition for them to assist in the attack.

After a reciprocal violent bombardment, our guns ceased, and the enemy doubtless anticipated an infantry advance. They continued their bombardment, but finding nothing was happening they stopped. Our guns re-opened at a longer range with a more deliberate fire.

At dawn the Tanks advanced, the Infantry following. The concentrations spread out fanwise as they progressed, the object of the operation being to try and straighten out the kink in our line within which the Germans held several strong positions.

WHERE "VALIANT" GERMANS WERE HIT!

When the enemy saw the yellowish objects crawling rapidly over the broken ground they began to fire wildly from places of concealment, but generally fled before the Tanks reached them, with this Tank gunners showering bullets upon that part of their bodies where valiant men least like to be smitten. The Infantry following the Tanks successively occupied the triangle of the Mont Duhibou and Cockerot farms, which had given a lot of trouble.

The total depth of the advance planned was 300 yards, but the Germans far beyond bolted.

The whole affair was a complete vindication of the utility of the Tank in this species of warfare.

The French captures of guns now totals 25.

The aerial activity between battles has never been greater.

FRENCH FRONT.

FOUR THOUSAND PRISONERS.

PARIS, August 21st.

North of Verdun we carried enemy defences on both sides of the Meuse on a front of eighteen kilometres to a depth at some points of over two kilometres.

On the left bank we particularly hold Avocourt Wood, both summits of Deadman Hill and Corbeaux and Cumieres Woods.

On the right bank we carried Tallon Hill, Champelville, Hill, 344, Moront Farm, and Hill 230 to north of Louvemont.

On the right we considerably advanced in Bois des Fosse and Bois le Chaume.

The total number of unwounded prisoners exceeds 4,000.

BRILLIANT AERIAL AID.

The Germans violently counter-attacked at Avocourt Wood, Deadman Hill, and Hill 344, but our fire everywhere nullified their efforts and inflicted heavy losses.

Our aviators played a brilliant part, machine-gunning enemy gatherings from low altitudes, thus contributing to the repulse of the counter-attacks.

Our pilots brought down 11 machines, and our special guns brought down two machines.

EARLIER CABLES.

MANY PRISONERS COMING IN.

PARIS, August 20th.

A communiqué states:—There is a fairly lively artillery struggle north of Bixchoote. Our troops attacked this morning on both banks of the Meuse with magnificent dash.

Early reports show this new battle at Verdun is developing to our advantage on a front of eighteen kilometres from Avocourt Wood to the north of Bezonvaux.

Many prisoners are coming in. The bravery of our men is beyond praise.

BIG BATTLE ON VERDUN FRONT.

LONDON, August 20th.

A German official wireless message states:—In the opening battle before Verdun, the French occupied, without fighting, Talou Ridge, east of the Meuse. Fighting is in full swing on a fourteen and a half miles' front.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH BEGIN VERDUN BATTLE.

SPLENDID RESULTS ACHIEVED.

LONDON, August 21st.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters reports:—At dawn to-day the French began another battle on the historic field of Verdun.

For over a fortnight the batteries on both sides of the Meuse have been hammering the German line on both sides of the river, from Avocourt Wood on the left bank to Bezonvaux on the right bank, fully sixteen miles.

This morning the infantry leapt from their trenches in a splendid rush, which within forty minutes carried them to the limits of the first line objective.

All the objectives of the day were carried by seven o'clock.

The reports which are coming in are satisfactory.

A number of prisoners were captured by all the Divisions engaged.

There is every reason to hope that the splendid results were achieved with relatively small casualties.

A HURRICANE OF ARTILLERY.

French artillery fire in the small hours of the morning, before the Infantry left their trenches, reached and remained at hurricane pitch. The night was dark and moonless, but the flashes of hundreds of guns of all calibres shelling the German trenches lit up the road so that outlines of things a dozen yards away were plainly recognisable.

The flashes played like summer lightning all around the horizon.

The roar of guns of various descriptions in every key at varying distances increased. After the maximum violence it dropped for a few minutes before the attack was launched, then it leapt again to tornado strength for the barrage which preceded the infantry down the slopes fronting Pepper Hill and Louvemont.

Seven minutes later a shower of golden rockets over the Boche lines indicated that the German Battalion Commanders badly needed a barrage to check the French Infantry. Apparently the signal was too late, as the French assaulting force dashed from their departure trenches at such speed and precision that they reached the enemy's first line before his barrage was opened.

ENEMY'S "MUSTARD GAS."

Telegraphing from Verdun this afternoon, prior to the capture of Deadman Hill, the Correspondent shows what a terrible task is set the French Infantry.

"The northern half of Deadman Hill was strongly held by the enemy, while we were established on the southern slopes and on Cumieres Ridge. Carrying the enemy's first line to the river on the right bank, before we stretches the valley in which lies the Fosse Wood. Beyond that rises another long whaleback, the highest points of which run from 1,000 to 1,200 feet between the villages Samogneux and Ornes. All this is ground which the Germans have been strengthening by every means for the last eighteen months. The enemy is known to have strongly reinforced his army in front of Verdun, and it is certain that the Germans mean to make a hard fight. The attack fulfils a highly useful purpose, forcing the enemy to withdraw his troops and guns from other points and accept simultaneously three serious engagements, namely, Flanders, the Aisne, and Verdun. The enemy is firing enormous numbers of asphyxiating shells filled with a new poison gas, nicknamed 'Mustard Gas,' attacking the lungs, eyes and mucous membranes with deadly effect."

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, August 21st.

A wireless German official report states:—The battle of Verdun is going in our favour.

The enemy penetrated our defensive zone at Avocourt Wood and Morthomme.

We repulsed attacks on the east bank of the Meuse.

Russian front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

RUSSIAN FRONT.

ENEMY ATTACKING.

LONDON, August 21st.

A wireless Russian official report states:—The enemy persistently attacked in the direction of Okna and Onatchi and pressed back the Roumanians to the south-western outskirts of Okna.

The enemy's attacks in the region of Grazestchi resulted in the capture of Staklerie factory, where an engagement is proceeding.

The enemy unsuccessfully offensive westward of the Focani-Jud railway and compelled the Roumanians to retire eastward of the railway.

We occupied several of the villages in the region southward of Polim-belumer, in the Caucasus.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE RUSSO-ROUMANIAN FRONT

SITUATION GENERALLY SATISFACTORY.

LONDON, August 20th.

The situation on the Russian and Roumanian fronts is generally satisfactory. The Germans are not at present making serious progress in Poldolia and Bessarabia, while the magnificent resistance of the Russo-Roumanians is holding the enemy in Moldavia.

The Austro-Germans have not yet reached Okna and have not progressed much down the Tretia Valley.

A severe struggle is progressing farther south in the neighbourhood of the Sereth.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

LONDON, August 20th.

A German official message states:—The Austro-Germans, by assaults on both sides of the Oltiu Valley, drove back the stubbornly resisting Roumanians in the direction of Trotiu Valley. We captured 1,500 prisoners and thirty guns. Heavy fighting is proceeding at Marasesti, which is on the western bank of the Sereth, and we have taken 2,200 prisoners.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIAN SEAPLANE SINKS A SUBMARINE.

ROME, August 21st.

An Italian seaplane dropped bombs on board a submarine in mid-Adriatic and sank her.

Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BELGIAN COAST AGAIN RAIDED.

LONDON, August 20th.

An Admiralty announcement says the air service on Saturday night dropped many tons of bombs on Saint Pierre Station, Ghent, Thourout Station, an ammunition dump and Bruges Dock. They also raided Saelleghe Aerodrome yesterday morning, hitting directly a steel shed.

The Royal Flying Corps assisted. Our returning machines beat off hostile aircraft, shooting down one.

All our machines returned.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE ISONZO BATTLE.

BIG HAUL OF PRISONERS.

LONDON, August 20th.

An Italian official wireless message states:—To the north of Anfovo, we overcame the enemy's resistance and threw numerous pontoons across the Isonzo.

We crossed to the left bank and crossed the enemy's first line between Plava and the sea, despite a desperate resistance.

Two hundred and eight aeroplanes participated and bombed and machine-gunned the enemy's reserves.

Infantry actions and artillery firing is vigorously proceeding.

The enemy's losses are most serious, and considerable booty has been captured, including guns and machine-guns.

Already 7,500 prisoners have been counted.

FIERCE FIGHT FOR TRIESTE.

LONDON, August 20th.

The Italian offensive seems likely to develop into a fierce fight for Trieste. General Cadorna is employing the new familiar tactics of the Allies, pouring in a terrific artillery fire on the front while bombing from the air the troops and communications in the rear.

Italian reports so far do not mention actual infantry attacks.

GREAT STRUGGLE ON ITALIAN FRONT.

COPENHAGEN, August 20th.

An Austrian evening communiqué says the great Isonzo battle continues with undiminished force.

LATEST CABLES.

BRITISH BATTERIES CONTRIBUTING.

UDINE, August 21st.

The terrible uninterrupted drum-fire continues along the 65 miles of the Isonzo and Curo fronts, to which British batteries are valiantly contributing.

The present offensive is developing on a front 15 miles longer than that of last May.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BULGARIANS BOMBARD MONASTIR.

LONDON, August 20th.

A Serbian official message says:—The Bulgarians violently bombarded Monastir. A great many buildings were destroyed. There are numerous civilian victims.

Many women and children were rendered homeless.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SITUATION IN SPAIN.

MADRID, August 21st.

The Cabinet has decided to disband the troops called up during the recent disturbances.

The Cabinet also approved a credit of 70,000,000 pesetas for the reorganisation of the Army and the provision of aeroplanes and anti-aircraft guns.

HAY IN GERMANY.

ZURICH, August 21st.

The German Government has doubled the price of hay in order to reserve as much as possible for the Army. This is expected to lead to further slaughtering of cattle owing to want of fodder, thus causing a further shortage of milk.

There are indications that the grain-producing provinces in Austria will decline to export their crops to other parts.

EARLIER CABLES.

A GREEK PLOT REVEALED.

ATHENS, August 20th.

A White Book has been published confirming the existence of a secret agreement between the last Government of the old régime and the Central Powers. It shows that M. Skouloudis tried to hoodwink the Allies regarding the affair of the Rupil Pass, where the whole Greek garrison surrendered, giving the Central Powers important advantages.

It is now clear that this surrender was pre-arranged.

A most interesting document is one of the telegrams exchanged between King Constantine and the Kaiser after the British declaration of war, in which the Kaiser suggested that Greece should support the Central Powers.

King Constantine replied professing sympathies with Germany, but was of the opinion that mobilisation of the Greek Army was useless, as the Anglo-French Fleet, which rules the Mediterranean, could wipe out Greece.

GERMAN INTENTIONS IN BELGIUM.

LONDON, August 20th.

Mr. Gerard, continuing his revelations in the *Telegraph*, gives the German idea of peace, and says that he never could get anybody to state definite terms.

When asked whether Germany was willing to withdraw from Belgium, the Chancellor always said, "Yes, but with guarantees."

Finally, in January, 1917, Mr. Gerard pressed for a specific statement and asked whether the Germans were willing to withdraw from Belgium.

The Chancellor answered:—"We must have the forts of Liege and Namur and other forts and garrisons throughout Belgium. We must have possession of railroads and ports, and the Belgians must not be allowed to retain an Army in Belgium and have commercial control of the country. Germany would not allow Belgium to be an outpost of England."

Mr. Gerard bluntly replied, "I do not suppose that the English wish it to become an outpost."

The German Chancellor added that Germany must have indemnities from all countries, and all her ships and Colonies must be restored.

THE RAILWAY TROUBLE.

LONDON, August 20th.

In connection with the engine-drivers' threat to strike, the hope is everywhere expressed that the men, despite several admitted grievances, will not upset the principle of an eight-hours' day, for that is what the dispute amounts to. The men do not desire the principle to operate during war time.

The Government's position, however, is that it will not permanently control the railways, and hence it cannot make a promise which would have the effect of deteriorating the value of shareholders' property without the consent of the shareholders.

POST-WAR TREATMENT OF ENEMY SHIPPING.

LONDON, August 20th.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Norton-Griffiths, Lord Robert Cecil said that neutral shipping persistently engaged in assisting our enemies would be treated after the war the same as enemy shipping.

Neutral vessels lying up in ports would be considered as assisting our enemies.

MERCHANT SEAMEN ROLL OF HONOUR.

LONDON, August 20th.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. Peto, Sir Albert Stanley said 6,527 merchant officers and men, excluding those on the Admiralty Pay List, had been killed during the war.

STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

MINERS' FEDERATION REVERSES DECISION.

LONDON, August 20th.

A private meeting of the British Miners' Federation has reversed its previous decision in favour of the Stockholm Conference by passing a resolution by 376 votes to 345 against the sending of delegates.

This decision may affect the Labour Party's decision, which the adjourned Conference re-considers to-morrow.

SEAMEN'S ATTITUDE APPROVED.

Delegates from three hundred Trade Unions met in London to support the decision of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union not to carry peace delegates to Stockholm.

It was announced that a circular had been sent to all branches of Trade Unions in the country, asking whether they supported the seamen's attitude. Replies had been received from 301 branches who supported the seamen's attitude, and from 321 against, while sixteen were neutral.

INDIAN REFORMS.

LONDON, August 19th.

In the House of Commons, the Hon. E. S. Montagu announced that the Imperial and Indian Governments were in complete accord regarding the associating with an increasing degree of Indians with every branch of the Indian administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions, with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government for India as an integral part of the Empire. It was desirable that there should be a free and informal discussion as soon as possible between the Imperial and Indian authorities. Mr. Montagu was, therefore, proceeding to India in the winter to discuss the question in connection therewith.

KING'S COMMISSIONS FOR INDIANS.

LONDON, August 21st.

Colonel Repington, writing in the *Times*, says that, as a matter of policy, and gratitude, grants of the King's Commission to Indians must come.

Colonel Repington favours a careful system of nomination of members of ruling families, instead of examination for cadetships, and suggests the establishment of an Indian Sandhurst, for which the staffs of Quetta and Wellington could be utilised.

The Hon. E. S. Montagu, in the House of Commons, announced that nine Indian Officers, who had served in the war, would be granted commissioned ranks in the Indian Army.

THE ALLIES AND THE POPE.

LONDON, August 20th.

In the House of Commons, Lord Robert Cecil announced that the Allies would confer before replying to the Pope's Peace Note.

CANADIAN FACTORY EXPLOSION.

HEAVY CASUALTIES.

MONTREAL, August 20th.

A terrific factory explosion occurred at Rigaud, in Quebec, destroying forty houses. The neighbouring village of Gragou and the countryside is covered in dense smoke.

Reuter's Correspondent at Montreal states that three hundred people are reported missing as a result of the Rigaud explosion.

BIG FIRE IN NORWAY.

CHRISTIANIA, August 20th.

On the 18th instant a factory was burned down, destroying an adjoining electric works, a hotel and two shops. The damage is estimated at £50,0

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THE STOCKHOLM THEORISTS
A SYMPOSIUM WITH MR. BRANTING.

(FROM A. L. THOMPSON, EDITOR OF
THE "CLARION.")

STOCKHOLM.
After my late experiences in France, where every man is a soldier and most of the women wear mourning; where the towns and villages are riddled with shells, the fields torn by trenches, and the whole land filled with the rubble and waste of war, this beautiful Scandinavia seems to belong to another world—the happy world that we knew before the mad fury of Attila turned it into a shambles.

The recollection of the charred stumps of Malmoe Wood is like the shuddering remembrance of a horrid nightmare in the green silences of Norway's vast forests. The ghastly wreckage of the Somme Valley seems impossible amid the loveliness of these placid mountain lakes, and in the great peace of lofty summits, surrounded by eternal ice and snow, one feels, like Bismarck, Relland, high above the human scramble.

The dreamers of this happy land were beautifully inspired in inviting combatants out of the carnage to rest their minds here in the discussion of philosophical abstractions. If the delegates had been true representatives of the entire belligerent nations, agreed upon mutually acceptable bases, nothing could have been more apt than a conference in this beautiful and remote Venice of the north, with its dreamland barriers of ice-bound mountain and enchanted wood. But one despairs to think what good came, even here, of abstract debates between idealists who represent only small minorities and sects, while the vast ambitions which raised the terrible conflict remain undefeated and undeterred.

MR. BRANTING'S DREAM.
We Socialists have no monopoly of war weariness or peaceful aspiration. All the belligerent peoples, all neutrals—the entire world—gasps for peace. But how can we Socialists create peace while the authors of the war remain powerful, triumphant, and undiscovered?

Yet Mr. Branting, the noblest and ablest of Swedish statesmen, dreamt a fine dream when he called this Socialist conference. He told me of his aims and hopes to-day, and is to tell me more to-morrow. His idea was, I imagine, to convince the German delegates, by the general assurance of all the other representatives, that the only way to peace is to purge their guilt in supporting the war of aggression by working for the deliverance of their country from its mis-rulers. While I am not hopeful of much good from the conference I cannot think it likely to do harm, and should have felt more confident on that point if Mr. Branting had been supported by the ablest Socialist representatives of the western belligerent nations.

The danger is that the well-drilled and disciplined Germans, with their arguments and proposals thoroughly rehearsed and cunningly perfected, will persuade the simple, sentimental neutrals against their instincts, or ride roughshod over the proceedings in the bullying German manner of past congresses.

BRITISH PACIFISTS.
It was to guard against this danger that I have urged the sending of men like Mr. James Macdonald from Britain and Mr. Schin from France. Perverse and slippery as Macdonald has been at home, his past utterances must have compelled him at least to stand by Branting. As for Schin, he is too keenly French to have sacrificed any scrap of his country's rightful claims, and both men are at least clever. That Macdonald should have been prevented from even fulfilling the mission to the Russian Government with which the British Government entrusted him is at once tragic and comical.

The prevention of Macdonald's departure will not benefit England. What makes me so wild is that it will only benefit Macdonald.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRANTING.
Last evening I had a long interview with Mr. Branting, the distinguished Socialist statesman, and probable Swedish Premier of the near future.

To-day, with Mr. Julius West, the delegate of the Fabian Society to Petrograd, I had four hours' talk with Mr. Branting and Huysmans, the secretary of the old "International." In fairness to both I will transmit the general effect of the talk without comment.

Branting, who is unquestionably a sincere friend of the Allies, strongly urges that Great Britain and France should be represented by delegates of every Socialist section at the future plenary International Congress at Stockholm which it is the object of the present separate preliminary conferences to produce. He believes that Great Britain's slothfulness helps the propaganda of Lenin and Grimm, who are making a great impression in Russia and other countries, notably Denmark. Lenin, it may be useful to remind my readers, is the Russian refugee who obtained a passport from the Kaiser's Government to cross Germany on his return to Petrograd. Grimm is the secretary of a new society called the Commission de Berne, whose creed is that no Socialist should under any circumstances fight in defence of territory, but should make war only against Governments.

A GERMAN AGENT.
Branting is very proud of the "scoop" scored by his paper, the *Social-Democrat*, in securing and publishing a secret letter from Hoffmann, ex-President of the Swiss Republic, giving Grimm full power to negotiate with the Russian Provisional Government for a separate peace, and promising that no offensive will be undertaken against Russia while negotiations are possible.

This sensational exposure, as Branting says, conclusively proves Grimm's position as a German agent and obviously demands an explanation from Hoffmann, Switzerland's Foreign Minister.

The effect of this discovery that Lenin and Grimm are acting directly for the Kaiser's Government must tend to check their propaganda. (Petrograd on Saturday reported that Grimm has been expelled.) But nothing can deter the Workers' Committee from holding the International congress, and if Great Britain

(Continued at foot of next column.)

MR. LLOYD GEORGE ON A NEW COVENANT.

Mr. Lloyd George presided at the annual flower festival at the Welsh Baptist Chapel, Cardiff Street, W., in which his daughter was married the previous week.

Speaking in Welsh, the Prime Minister said that it was a comfort to him to come among his own people to read and to speak Welsh. To come to a Welsh chapel was like a cheap trip to the hills of Wales. (Laughter.) He referred to the war as the greatest catastrophe since the days of the Deluge. There was not a country in the whole world where the dove of peace could rest. After the Biblical Deluge there was a very significant promise that never again could such a thing happen. That was the symbol for to-day. It was a covenant then between God and man. To-day we wanted the covenant renewed, but it must be a covenant, not between God and man only but between nation and nation.

If the dove were sent out to-day he was afraid it would come back. It had gone forth once. As a matter of fact, President Wilson, he believed, had sent it, and Bethmann-Hollweg had tried to do something of the sort. But he sent forth not a dove, but a hawk, and he was not sure that he would not send another. (Laughter.) There would be an end to this Deluge, but the waters had not yet gone down. What would happen afterwards? Never, he thought, would they require more thought, wisdom, preparation, and providence than when the present Deluge had disappeared. The new world must be different from the old.

and France refuse to send delegates the Russian revolutionaries will certainly take the business out of the Dutch-Scandinavian committee's hands and summon the congress at Stockholm on their own account.

At this point Huysmans interpolated an emphatic protest against the tyranny of the western democratic Governments in preventing—or, indeed, permitting—the free movement of free people. Even the Austrian delegates had protested that such a thing could never have occurred in their country. As for Belgium, the deputies would have resented even the granting of permission as an outrage on their unquestionable liberty.

THE BLOCKADE.
But here Branting dryly interposed the remark that the liberties of peace might not always be conducive to liberty in time of war.

West suggested that the readiness of the German and Austrian Governments to allow their delegates to come to Stockholm might not be altogether unconnected with the growing effectiveness of the blockade.

Huysmans ridiculed this suggestion. It was absurd to suppose that Germany could be starved. Roumania, under German direction, would supply all her needs, but Branting, with a slow, wise smile, observed that as a Socialist he rather believed in the materialistic interpretation of history, according to which the point of view was frequently influenced by the state of the stomach.

Huysmans thought it monstrous that Great Britain should think of annexing the German Colonies, and when we pointed out that this was a matter concerning not Great Britain but the free and independent States allied to Britain, Branting readily conceded that as regards South Africa, at any rate, the question was one for General Smuts and General Botha rather than for Mr. Lloyd George. Huysmans thought that Britain's proposal for sharing out Austria was utterly unthinkable; but we assured him that no such proposal had been mentioned up to the time of our leaving England; Britain had merely suggested autonomy according to nationalities.

Huysmans asked what Great Britain would say if Austria proposed similar treatment for Ireland.

We replied by explaining some differences as to the peace proposals enunciated by the German majority.

Huysmans declared they closely resembled those set forth by Hoffmann in the aforesaid secret letter to Grimm in terms evidently approved by Bethmann-Hollweg. He also called attention to the fact that while Scheidemann proposed "peace without annexations" he conceded the possible rectification of frontiers, under which cover the German Socialists might agree to a reasonable settlement in Alsace-Lorraine and Poland.

HUNS AND HORNZOLLERNS.

I asked Branting whether he regarded the German majority's statement of terms as satisfactory, and he replied that he considered them much otherwise; but Scheidemann was evidently prepared for an abatement under a plenary congress debate.

Branting and Huysmans both expressed the conviction impressed on them by the Scheidemann group, as distinguished from the Sudekum Imperialists, that they were absolutely sincere in believing that the outbreak of war in the Russian menace and the peril of encirclement.

Branting thinks that by a congress vote the German Socialists could be greatly influenced towards internal energetic action in their own country against their imperialistic rulers.

Huysmans, however, thought there was no possibility of detaching the Hohen-zollerns.

Finally, Branting urgently asked me to report to Great Britain his plea for the liberation of the hundred or two of Swedish ships held up on various claims in British and American ports. Sweden had honestly done her best to accede to Britain's reasonable claims, and the conveyance of goods to Germany had now been altogether stopped. Ships hitherto retained in Baltic ports for fear of submarines had been released for traffic with England despite Zeppelins which have flown over Norway and been fired on. In return Sweden asks for the release of the ships in British ports, without which Swedish workers, already unemployed, bread tickets and largely unemployed, will be in grave danger of wholesale starvation.—Daily Mail.

THE FRIGHT THAT CAME BACK.

"There are things, sir, invisible to us that are as real as this table," the young man struck the table a blow which proved it to be an undeniable reality, and looked at the doctor defiantly, almost as though he expected contradiction; but that wise, grey benefactor merely adjusted a pair of gold eyeglasses upon the bridge of his shapely nose and nodded.

"Most people who think," he said, "arrive at a somewhat similar belief in later years than you have reached; but I should like to hear what incident inspired your assertion. Quite in a friendly way, you know."

"Well, it happened in a village, of the remnants of one, which we occupied during the recent advance. The German trenches were only a few hundred yards beyond it, and ours ran through it, so that when we moved about there were spots where we were sniped from their front as well as shelled from their rear. The place that troubled me, as company-runner with plenty of dodging around with messages, was a bend in the ruined street just where you came in sight of open country, marked by a wall that had so far escaped destruction. Somehow, I could not pass by that wall: I felt as though some invisible, unchained force lurked behind it that had unlimited power to harm me. Some of the other fellows felt it, for they would creep by the wall and slip across the road with the utmost unconcern, treating the snipers—who then had a running target for an instant—as a joke."

"If I fail to get by this wall, I want to make a detour; but once, in the dusk, I came unwittingly very close to it, and suffered five minutes of fear such as I had never known, doubly intense because it was so inexplicable."

He paused, and the doctor looked at him. Evidently there was more to follow of this strange story.

"Did you ever actually pass or explore this mysterious barrier?"

The young man still hesitated. Then he said: "I would rather not tell you." And shortly afterwards he took his leave, with half the tale untold.

A week went by, during which the doctor often theorised over the unfinished tale, and then, one evening, he received a urgent summons from the young man's home. He found his patient sitting in an easy chair, talking to himself incessantly.

"Let me out, let me out," he said excitedly. "I can't find the door—tell me where it is, quick. . . . How did I get in? I don't remember. . . . No body speaks to me, nobody understands. . . . Let me out!"

The doctor went up to the sufferer and placed a persuasive hand on his shoulder.

"You never told me, the other day," he said, "the end of your experience with that wall. You can tell me now." The eyes met; the doctor smiled encouragingly, and the patient passed his hand wearily across his brow.

"There was a great noise," he said. "It flung me over. And . . . something caught me . . . a clammy, dark thing that held me, a foully smelling thing . . . It didn't seem real."

"Of course. It was not real," exclaimed the doctor, seizing the point instantly. "It was just your too active imagination. Now think: when you were a tiny chap did you ever have a severe fright?"

The patient considered. "Yes; once a huge smooth wet dog sprang out at me from a barn, knocked me down, and licked me. They say I was ill for weeks after."

"Ah," said the doctor, "now we have it all straightened out. Some resemblance between your wall and the scene of your scare flippd open that particular pigeon-hole of your brain, and its records, suddenly exposed, upset your balance at once. The shell-burst did the rest."

"And the . . . the Thing, doctor?" "Was the dog, the dear old farm dog that had been in the pond and wanted a game with the first little boy he came across—who happened to be you. Good-bye—have a lie down and a good nap and to-morrow say how well you are."

"The young man, after the doctor's confident grip of the hand, sat back in his easy chair, smiling, and in five minutes he drifted into the sweet relief of sleep, to wake with the barrier down.—Daily Mail.

TO AN OLD SUIT.

When war economy became an August need within our borders, I was assured no kind of shame would be his need who ceased the orders. Which erst had kept him smartly clad And made his gentle tailor glad.

Rather great merit he should earn By whom new bills might be evaded, And at that word behold me turn To you, whose bloom was somewhat faded.

As giving me a useful start In playing thus a patriot's part.

How nobly have we carried on And done our little bit together For if your nittish charm has gone You still defy the wind and weather. And with your aid my virtue gleams As brightly as your polished seams.

So I have registered a vow To stick to you for the "duration" Which will, you may perceive, allow Of more than one interpretation. I hope it signifies the war's; If not, it will but be for years!

Torchester in the Daily Mail.

THE QUEEN BEHIND A COUNTER. TWO PENNY LUNCHEONS.

The Queen spent a delightful hour recently, with the assistance of Princess Mary as "waitress," serving luncheons at 2d. and 3d. per portion at the new communal kitchen at the Stepney Central Hall, which had been opened by Princess Christian.

The Queen arrived at noon, driving down Commercial-road and receiving a very hearty welcome from a large crowd. After a ceremony of presentations to the missionaries of the hall (which is under the control of the Wesleyan Central Mission), the Queen and the Princess went to the kitchen adjoining, took their stand behind a temporary counter, and set to work.

Hundreds of women and children with baskets, jugs, paper bags, and plates were already in the waiting queue which stretched from the hall far along Commercial-road. The work of serving this hungry throng began in a most appetizing odour of sausages and fried onions.

"I declare," said the Queen, "it makes me feel quite hungry." Here comes the first customer—a very small boy with a very big basket and a rather suspicious-looking bottle in it. "Are you going to put your dinner in the basket, little boy?"

"Yes, mum," replied the little boy. "And what do you want? How much have you got to spend?"

"Tuppence, lady," and he produced a twopenny ticket. "I'll have sausage and onions," he said, knowing what was good.

"One sausage and onions," said the Queen to the waitress at her side, as she spiked the twopenny ticket. "But sausage and onions is threepence," declared the waitress (Princess Mary), "and it really can't be done at the price."

ROYAL COMMENDATIONS.

The little boy's face fell. "I'm afraid you can't have a threepenny dinner for a twopenny ticket," said the Queen, sympathetically. "Have a meat pie—I can assure you they're very nice!"

The small boy said he would; and from that moment there was a tremendous run on the meat-pie market. The news flashed through the crowd instantly that the Queen had told Jimmy Thompson that the meat pies were fine. Nearly everybody clamoured for them, so that at 12.45 precisely Mr. Gregory, the minister of the mission, rapped vigorously upon the counter and cried in a loud voice: "Your Majesty, ladies and gentlemen, and dear friends, I have to announce that all the meat pies are sold. I am very sorry, but we did not anticipate so huge a demand for them."

"The cold ham looks very nice, too," remarked the Queen. Consequently the cold ham was the next dainty to be struggled for.

The first of the claimants for this dish was an elderly, white-haired woman, who leaned over the counter and whispered mysteriously for it.

"Where's your plate?" asked the Queen.

"If you please, your Majesty, I've only got this," replied the dame, producing a large envelope.

"I dare say we can manage with that," the Queen said. So Princess Mary fetched the ham, and the Queen, using her ticket-spoke as a fork, transferred the slices of ham to the envelope, amid encouraging cheers.

And so this speedily served quick lunch went on merrily for an hour, her Majesty passing now and then to ask her customers questions. A good many were in mourning. "Were you in the raid?" was the Queen's question to them and they told her briefly of their adventures.

OLD SEAMSTRESS' INQUIRY.

Very nearly the last customer served was a bright-eyed woman of over 70—Mrs. Smith, of Salmon-lane, Stepney.

"I should like just a word with you your Majesty," said she very confidentially.

"Well, what is it?" asked the Queen, bending over and smiling encouragingly.

"I hope your husband's quite well, ma'am."

"Thank you, yes—he is," replied her Majesty. "I am sure it is very kind of you to inquire."

"I've got a very good reason for it," remarked Mrs. Smith. "Because I've followed him, so to speak, ever since he was a baby. It was I who made his first robe, bless his heart!"

"How interesting!" laughed the Queen.

"And I hope you'll tell him what I've told you and give him my best respects and kind wishes."

"To be sure I will," replied her Majesty.

"Thank you kindly," said Mrs. Smith, and with a deep curtsy, the old lady turned to go.

"Stop a minute," cried the Queen. "You've forgotten your dinner!"

"Bless us, so I have!" chuckled Mrs. Smith. "I think I'll have a little pie, please, I was that flustered."

And as she received her portion, fetched by the Princess, the old seamstress of Salmon-lane once more said, shaking her finger, "Now, you won't forget to tell your husband!"

"I won't forget," replied the Queen. "I am sure he will be very interested to hear all about it!"—Daily Mail.

RUSSIAN WOMEN AT THE FRONT.

It is reported from Geneva that the correspondent of the *Azeri*, a Budapest journal, writing from the Galicia front on the 22nd instant, says:—

On the Brezany front our troops for the first time came into contact with a regiment composed of Russian women. They fought with extraordinary bravery, frequently making fierce counter-attacks. They were led by women officers.

NITROGEN FROM THE AIR. MANCHESTER'S NEW ENTERPRISE.

Plant is about to be erected in Manchester for the manufacture of nitrogenous products from the nitrogen in the air. For reasons that will be obvious, fuller details must be reserved until the conclusion of the war.

Even since the British blockade was enforced, Germany has found it impossible to import Chilean nitrates for the manufacture of explosives and fertilisers. It reverted, therefore, to the expedient of "fixing" the nitrogen from the air, and has adopted it to a huge extent since almost the beginning of the war. It has been stated in German technical journals that the output of nitrogenous products by the Badische-Analinfabrik, with the aid chiefly of the Haber catalytic process, amounts now to about 500,000 tons a year. By these means the Germans get all the nitrogenous ingredients for their high explosives.

Attempts have been made to work the Haber process in Great Britain, but all have failed, and the general consensus of opinion now is that this is not a commercial process, as the expense and risk appear to be enormous. With the Germans, however, it is a case of needs must.

The only other way by which nitrogen can be "fixed" from the air is by the electric processes, of which up to now the principal have been the Barklund and Eyde, the Schönherr, and the Pauling. All of these are single-phase and electrical processes, and are considered workable commercially only in places like Norway, where electricity can be generated cheaply by water-power. None of them has been worked in England because of the high cost of electricity, which makes them uneconomical under ordinary conditions.

The consequence is that the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen has not been adopted in this country, which relies for its supplies of this valuable ingredient of high explosives and an indispensable part of all the principal fertilisers on the utilisation of Chilean nitrates, the price of which has increased enormously since the beginning of the war.

A NEW PROCESS: ENGLISH DISCOVERY.

A new factor in the situation has now arisen in the new method of nitrogen fixation from the air which is about to be started in Manchester. It is believed that with this process nitrogen can be "fixed" anywhere in England at a very low cost, even where electricity is fairly expensive, because it apparently achieves the highest efficiency of nitrogen fixation per kilowatt hour of energy used that has ever been achieved or even dreamt of by any of the other processes mentioned. Its inventor is a British subject.

The Manchester Corporation succeeded in being the first to get the industry started, because it went out of its way to help the promoters, the International Nitrogen and Power Company, 8, Waterloo Place, London, who hold the exclusive rights to work the process in Great Britain.

The new industry is believed to have great possibilities, not only for war purposes but after the war. Possibly when the method comes to be worked throughout the United Kingdom it will make this country independent of overseas supplies of fixed organic nitrogen, and provide a new security against the danger of interruption of overseas supplies of essential ingredients of explosives in time of war. If it can be done the whole of our nitric acid supplies could be obtained in this way, and also picric acid, an essential ingredient in synthetic dyes.

Above all, it would bring to realisation Sir William Crookes' prediction to the British Association at Bristol over thirty years ago that the future of the white race would largely depend on the economic fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, by which the world might be made to yield larger quantities of wheat and other food-stuffs.

Through the good offices of the Manchester Corporation an excellent site for the works has been provided. Construction has already begun, and the establishment should be working within six months.

Inquiries made by a representative of the *Manchester Guardian* showed that a movement for carrying into effect a project for obtaining nitrates from the atmosphere was started in Manchester ten or twelve years ago, the motive being, of course, mainly a commercial one. The promoters were, for the most part, engaged in the bleaching industry, who desired to avoid, if it was possible, the expense of bringing nitrates so largely used in their business from South America. It was found, however, that an obstacle to the development of that scheme was the intense heat required to make the process successful. "We needed heat," one of the promoters of that time said yesterday, "of an intensity of 2,000 degrees, and the result was that the whole of the ovens and appliances necessary were destroyed before it could be attained. Another obstacle was placed in the way by the shipping trade, who feared the loss, if the experiments then made proved a success, of the nitrate shipping trade. Means were subsequently found of overcoming the difficulty, created by the intense heat required, and further efforts were made in France, which proved to be successful. There is a works in that country now which has for a number of years been producing nitrates from the air."

A chemist at a large house in the dyeing trade expressed the view that but for the fact that the Germans had for years obtained nitrates from the air the war would have been over long ago, considering the present difficulties in the way of their obtaining them from Chili or other South American sources.

SUBMARINES.

ARE OUR BEST BRAINS AT WORK?

[BY LOVAT FRASER.]

The nation does not yet fully realise the meaning of the destruction wrought of late by the German submarines. The grave consequences of the inability of the Admiralty to find an effective remedy for submarine warfare are not yet generally understood.

To a partial degree the German calculations have been right. To-day the submarines are a greater menace than the German armies in the field.

No doubt the enemy have failed to fulfil their own boundless hopes. They boasted that they would have us on our knees by June. We are so far from being prostrate that millions of well-fed and comfortable people in this country are still almost oblivious of the submarine danger. Paralysis creeps upon us so slowly and imperceptibly that the symptoms are ignored.

To do them justice, the leading members of the present Government have never talked lightly of the terror that strikes beneath the waters. Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Edward Carson, and most of their colleagues have repeatedly uttered guarded but earnest warnings, though they have not created any deep impression. People are eating less, but the food economy campaign does not carry complete conviction, and any decline in the number of ships sunk starts another wave of jubilation. The surest remedy would probably be to tell a little more of the truth. The weekly return of shipping losses was decided upon by international agreement, but its form is not frank enough. At present all ships above 1,600 tons (gross) are lumped together, but there is a tremendous difference between the loss of a ship of 2,000 tons and one of 10,000 tons. It has been said by Captain Bathurst that the Germans are now concentrating upon the bigger ships, but the return gives no clue.

All through this war the nation has been told too little, from a mistaken fear of telling the enemy too much. I fully believe in the policy of almost complete silence about the losses inflicted on German submarines, but more might be disclosed with safety about the extent and character of the depletion of our merchant shipping. The Germans are well informed on this point, and we shall not be telling them anything they do not know. Surely we are now far from the days when Lord Buckmaster made pathetic attempts to prevent the public from thinking "that their affairs were in a very serious state"! Eighteen months ago I should have been reproved for discussing the submarine question candidly, on the plea that "it would hearten the enemy." The result of the silence of eighteen months ago was that the latest development of the submarine campaign caught us unprepared.

It must now be bluntly recognised that most of our present difficulties are due to the shortage of shipping, which has been mainly produced by the depredations of the submarines. Because we are short of ships we are rapidly growing short of everything, but of bread most of all. The stability of the cotton industry of Lancashire is now being threatened, partly from other causes, but chiefly owing to the fact that sufficient ships are not available to bring us raw cotton and to carry Lancashire manufactures to distant over-sea markets. The pressure of the submarines slackened a little during May, but is increasing once more, and seems likely to go on increasing.

The Germans admit that our naval forces are destroying some of their submarines, but they claim to be building submarine far more rapidly than we destroy them. It is not at all impossible that their claim is well founded. They have set us various problems in this war which we have either not solved at all or have only very partially solved. The submarine campaign is one of the problems which we have not solved at all.

In certain circles there seems to be a disposition to say rather helplessly that the submarine question is incapable of solution. I decline to admit this contention. There is some answer and some remedy for every new method of warfare. Human brains found out the way to attack under water, and human brains can assuredly find out the best means of counter-attacks. We have now had three years' deadly experience of the submarine in war, and it is time that an antidote was discovered. We lost many months because somebody said in 1915 that the submarine menace was "well in hand" and would not bother us seriously any more. The exercise of a little imagination might have prevented this mistaken assumption. Very much the same error is now being made about daylight aeroplane raids. We are not devising adequate preparations for the day when aeroplanes will attack our cities in swarms, because the present imagination which can foresee this undoubtedly inevitable development is not at work among those in high places. When the war began the Germans had about 30 submarines of moderate efficiency. How many hundreds have they got to-day?

Last week in Parliament the Government were asked a very significant question. They were asked whether, having regard to the activity of hostile submarines, they were "assured of the competence of the present Board of Admiralty to adopt measures to secure the safety of our over-sea communications." Mr. Bonar Law gave a conventional affirmative answer. He was then asked whether it was not a fact that the shipping losses were more severe than ever. He replied, one presumes rather hastily, that he "did not think it was fair to judge entirely by results." But if we

(Continued at foot of next column.)

STORY OF THE "DOVER CASTLE."

SCENES ON A TORPEDOED HOSPITAL SHIP.

An Admiralty message announced the loss of the hospital ship *Dover Castle* on May 20th, in the Mediterranean, but the first of the survivors have only recently reached Great Britain. Their story of the rescue of over 600 wounded men, together with the whole of the medical staff, is an eloquent testimony to the skill and seamanship of those by whom the task was accomplished.

The *Dover Castle*, when attacked by a German submarine, was on her homeward journey with wounded soldiers from Salonika. One torpedo crippled her, and a second torpedo sank her.

"The second shot did the dirty work," said one of the survivors, and in less than ten minutes her stern uplifted out of the water and she went under bow first.

The first shot came without the slightest warning. It was a beautiful evening and the sea was calm and smooth. Had it been otherwise many a home might have had to mourn the loss of a gallant son. The vessel was struck on the starboard side and reeled heavily. A great hole was torn in her side, through which the water poured. One of the life-boats was smashed, men were thrown about in all directions, and the engines were stopped. The vessel gradually became lower in the water, but fortunately she was able to remain afloat. It was providential that the vessel had few co-cases on board, the great majority of the wounded being walking cases, but many of them were nearly helpless by reason of their wounds. The medical staff and the members of the crew worked heroically.

"Talk about winning the V.C.," said one sailor, "it was won time after time by men who seemed absolutely careless about themselves. You must remember that when a vessel has a large hole in her side the next moment may be her last; she is liable to go down at any minute. The wounded soldiers in turn again proved themselves to be brave men. The ship's officers and the medical staff were almost reckless in their devotion to duty. It was a big task to transfer 600 wounded men from the ship, but thank God we did it. Every one of the brave fellows was rescued, and their gratitude was dearer than all the distinguished orders in the world."

After all were in the boats, Commander Wilfrid, who was the last to leave the ship, saw that she might still keep afloat, and called for volunteers to return to her, in order to await the arrival of tugs which, he hoped, would take her to a place of safety. Immediately officers, engineers, and sailors offered to go back with him, and the captain and a number of others returned to the ship. While they were on her she was struck by the second torpedo. This time the blow was forward, and in a few minutes all that could be seen of the *Dover Castle* was the wreckage on the water. The captain and those who returned with him to the ship were saved, but when the roll-call was made on shore, it was found that six of the stokehold crew were missing.—Times.

EXPENSIVE SUGAR.

"Your sugar has come," said the postman with a grin as he delivered a parcel 3lb. of sugar at a South London home. "And there's 4d. to pay on it, please."

A glance at the label showed the astonished householder that this quite unexpected gift had come all the way from New Zealand, 13,000 miles away, and that it was sent by a relative. It was a somewhat roundabout and expensive way of getting a parcel of sugar to South London.

The 3lb. of sugar cost 9d. in New Zealand; the postage was 2s. 0d., and the Customs duty (paid by the recipient) was 4d.; total 3s. 1d., or more than 1s. a lb.

are not to judge by results, then what is the standard by which the Board of Admiralty is to be judged?

If the shipping losses continue at their present average weekly rate we shall not be long before we reach a position from which we may not be able to recover.

Are our best brains being applied to the submarine problem, or are the Germans beating us in the utilisation of brain power? We must look to Whitehall for the answer. Mr. Bonar Law was obviously comforting himself with the thought that it was too soon to expect results from the recent changes at the Admiralty. But, with the exception of Sir Eric Geddes, who is given charge of construction and has nothing to do with strategy or policy, what was the extent of these changes? I have examined again and again Sir Edward Carson's statement of May 14th. Stripped bare, it seems to mean that a junior Sea Lord has been sent to China and an officer from the Grand Fleet has taken his place on the Board.

The rest of the process is simple. The same men are taken and labelled afresh. An admiring action says, "Now let the Hung look out!" but new labels do not quicken tired brains.

No doubt we shall be reminded of a mysterious body which, according to the First Lord's statement, is or was called "The Anti-Submarine Division." We shall be told that numbers of officers with war experience have been brought of late to the Admiralty. The answer is that changing subordinates is of no use unless the best available brains are at the top. In short, the changes at the Admiralty do not seem to have gone far enough or high enough. All the labels which can be invented will not alter the tendency of minds which have worked along a particular groove during three years of strain.

Tired brains are in control. Perhaps that is why we are failing to grapple with the submarine menace. But failure to overcome the submarines may mean ruin.

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T. DAIGO, Agent,
King's Building. 107

TELEPHONE 2274 and 2275.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.**FRENCH MAIL LINES.**

SERVICE TO AND FROM JAPAN VIA SHANGHAI

SERVICE TO AND FROM EUROPE.

Ports of call:—Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Hongkong, Haiphong, Tourane, Saigon, Singapore, Colombo, Djibouti, Suez Port Said, Marseilles.

SPECIAL SUMMER RATES TO JAPAN.

1st Class Return tickets from 1st June, 1917, to 31st October, 1917, and interchangeable only with PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL S. N. Co. for return journey.

FARES: TO KOBE, \$135.00. TO YOKOHAMA, \$150.00

ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Return Tickets to Europe available two years.

Return Tickets to Intermediate Ports available six months.

For full particulars regarding sailings, apply to

F. THOMAS, Agent,
Queen's Building.

TELEPHONE 740.

O. S. K. OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

REGULAR SERVICES, PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG (SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

North American Line. FOR VICTORIA, SEATTLE AND TACOMA, VIA BEANGAL, MANILA, NAGASAKI, MOJI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA.

"CHICAGO MARU"	TUESDAY, 26th Aug., at 3 P.M.
"MEXICO MARU"	FRIDAY, 14th Sept., at Noon.
"HAWAII MARU"	WED'DAY, 26th Sept., at Noon.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connections are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

SOUTH AMERICAN LINE—Every three months the steamer proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Buenos Aires, via Singapore, Marseilles, Durban and Cape Town.

AUSTRALIAN LINE—Monthly service between Japan and Adelaide, sailing: Auckland, N. Z., Sydney and Melbourne.

BOMBAY LINE—Fortnightly service for Bombay calling at Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, and Colombo. At present this line's steamers maintain cargo only.

JAVA LINE—Monthly service for Java ports calling at Manila, Sandakan and Maseu. Booking for passengers and cargo to the ports.

FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamai, Keelung and Anping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"KAJO MARU"	THURSDAY, 23rd Aug., at Noon.
"JOSEIN MARU"	FRIDAY, 26th Aug., at Noon.

These Formosan Lines will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbour Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 76 will be fixed.

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to—

M. HIGUCHI, Manager,
No. 1, Queen's Building

TEL. Nos 744 and 745.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME

ON A HOLIDAY

ORDER THE

"HONGKONG WEEKLY PRESS"

TO BE SENT TO YOU, AND SO

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE FAR EAST.

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WEEK FULLY RECORDED.

INCLUDING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE LOCAL MARINES.

24 PAGES

24 PAGES

24 PAGES

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 21st AUGUST, 1917.

STOCKS.	PAID UP VALUE.	OFFICIAL QUOTATION 10.30 A.M.	CLOSING QUOTATION.	LAST DIVIDEND.
BANKS.				
Hongkong and Shanghai	\$125	\$600		\$2 3/4 int. s/o 1917
INSURANCES.				
Canton	\$50	\$320, buyers		\$25 for 1915
China Fire	\$20	\$135		\$9 for 1915
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300		\$27 for 1915
North China	\$25	T. 140		15% int. account 1916
Union	\$100	\$910, sellers		\$60 for 1915
Yangtze	\$80	\$197 1/2		\$21 for 1915
SHIPPING.				
Douglas S.S. Co.	\$50	\$35		\$5 int. s/o 1916/17
Canton Steamboats	\$15	\$40, sellers		\$1.25 for 1916
Indo-China	\$5	\$10 1/2		6/- for 1916
Do. Def.	\$5	\$10 1/2		50/- for 1916
Star Ferry Co.	\$10	\$2 1/2		\$2.10 for year ending 30/4/17
REFINERIES.				
China Sugars	\$100	\$35		\$12 for 1916
Malayan Sugars	\$30	\$2 1/2, buyers		5 Pa. for 1915
DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.				
Wharfedale Co.	\$50	\$7 1/2, sales		\$4 and bonus of \$2 for 1916
H. and W. Dock Co.	\$50	\$11 1/2, buy.		\$5 and bonus of \$5 for 1916
Shanghai Docks	Tls. 100	T. 78, buyers		Tls. 7 1/2 for year ending 30/4/16
LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.				
Central Estates	\$100	\$15, sellers		\$7 for 1916
Hongkong Hotels	\$50	\$100		\$3 for 1916
Hongkong Land	\$100	\$80, sellers		\$3 1/2 int. account 1917
Hongkong Land Reclamation	\$75	\$115		\$5.35 for 1916
Hampshire Estates	\$10	\$2 1/2		0 cents for 1916
Kowloon Lands	\$30	\$5 1/2		\$2 for 1916
West Point	\$50	\$7, buyers		\$3 int. account 1917
OILS.				
Langkats	Q10	Tls. 15, buy		Tls. 1 for year ending 31/10/16
Shells	\$1	103 1/2, buyers		2/- int. account 1916
Ural Caspian	\$1	32/-		8% for 1915/16
MINING.				
Kailans	\$1	\$5 1/2, buyers		1/- int. act. year ending 30/6/17
Rauba	\$1	\$2 1/2, sellers		None since 1910
Tronch	\$1	25/8		4/- int. account 1916
COTTON MILLS.				
Ewo	Tls. 50	T. 10 1/2		Tls. 9 for year ending 31/10/16
Kung Yik	Tls. 10	T. 15, buy.		T. 0.90 for year ending 30/11/16
Oriental C. S. Co. Ltd.	Tls. 50	T. 42		Tls. 6 for 1913
Shanghai	Tls. 50	T. 134, sel.		Tls. 6 for year ending 30/6/16
Yangtzepoo	Tls. 5	T. 5 1/2, sellers		Nil for 1915
MISCELLANEOUS.				
China Borneo	\$12	\$7		60 cents for 1916
China Lights	\$5	\$4 1/2		None since 1906
China Providents	\$10	\$7.90		70 cents for 1916
Dairy Farms	\$5	\$23		65 for year ending 31/7/16
Green Island Cement	\$7 1/2	\$7		80 cents for 1916
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$48, buyers		\$3 for year ending 28/2/17
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$151		\$11 for 1916
Hongkong Ropes	\$10	\$27 1/2		\$2 and bonus of \$1 for 1916
Hongkong Steels	\$10	\$10 1/2, buyers		\$1 for year ending 31/5/17
Hongkong Trams	\$5	\$6.20		9% int. s/o 1917
Peak Trams Old	\$10	\$9.10, sellers		7% for year ending 31/5/17
Do. New	\$1	\$0.80		do. (30/4/17)
Steam Laundries	\$5	\$3, x. div. b.		35 cents for year ending 31/5/17
Union Waterworks	\$7	\$13		\$1.25 for 1916
Watson & Co.	\$10	\$6		70 cents for 1916
Wm. Powell, Limited	\$7	\$6 1/2, sellers		None since 1914

VERNON & SMYTH. Share Brokers.

BANKS

BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE.

CAPITAL (4 Paid up) ... France 45,000,000
(3 of the Capital subscribed by the Government of the Chinese Republic).

Chairman of the Board of Directors: André Barthélemy.
General Manager: A. J. Pernot.

HEAD OFFICE: 74, Rue Saint Lazare, PARIS.

BRANCHES: PEKING, SHANGHAI, TIENTSIN, HONGKONG, SAIGON.

BANKERS

In FRANCE: Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie en France.
In LONDON: London County & Westminster Bank, Ltd.
In NEW YORK: Redmond & Co.
In ITALY: Banca Commerciale Italiana.

Telegraphic Address: CHIBANKIND.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application. Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

M. BOUET DE JOURNEL, Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH, Queen's Buildings, 5, Chater Road, Tel. No. 2352, Hongkong, 21st Aug. 1917.

HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

THE Business of this above Bank is conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. Rules may be obtained on application.

INTEREST on deposits is allowed on the Minimum Monthly Balances at 3 1/2 per cent. per annum.

Depositors may transfer at their option balances of \$100 or more to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK to be placed on FIXED DEPOSIT at 4 per cent. per annum.

For the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, N. J. STABE, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 2nd November, 1914. [10]

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 1823.

HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.

Paid-up Capital ... £1,200,000

Reserve Fund ... £1,900,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors £1,200,000

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking business transacted.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for 1 year or shorter periods at rates which will be quoted on application.

T. C. DOWNING, Manager.

Hongkong, 21st Aug. 1917. [14]

COMMERCIAL CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

August 20th.

ON LONDON.—
Telegraphic Transfer ... 2/11
Bank Bills on demand ... 2/11 1/2
Bank Bills at 30 days' sight ... 2/11 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight ... 2/11 1/2
Cred. at 4 months' sight ... 2/11 1/2
Locumotary Bills 4 months' sight ... 2/11 1/2

ON PARIS.—
Bank Bills on demand ... 40 1/2
Cred. at 4 months' sight ... 40 1/2

ON NEW YORK.—
Bank Bills on demand ... 69 1/2
Cred. at 30 days' sight ... 69 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—
Telegraphic Transfer ... nom
Bank Bills on demand ... nom

ON CALCUTTA.—
Telegraphic Transfer ... nom
Bank Bills on demand ... nom

ON SHANGHAI.—
Bank Bills at sight ... nom
Private, 30 days' sight ... 12 1/2

ON YOKOHAMA.—
On demand ... 138 1/2
On 3 months' sight ... 138 1/2

ON MANILA.—
On demand ... 12 1/2
On 3 months' sight ... 12 1/2

ON SINGAPORE.—
On demand ... 165
On 3 months' sight ... 165

ON HATYONG.—
On demand ... 5 1/2
On 3 months' sight ... 5 1/2

ON SAIGON.—
On demand ... 5 1/2
On 3 months' sight ... 5 1/2

ON BANGKOK.—
On demand ... 5 1/2
On 3 months' sight ... 5 1/2

SOVEREIGNTY, bank ... 5 1/2
GOLD LEAF, 100 fls., per tael ... 45 1/2
BAR SILVER, per oz ... 45 1/2

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Hongkong 20 cents pieces ... \$3.00 Premium
Hongkong 10 " ... \$3.00 Premium
Canton 20 " ... \$3.00 Premium
Canton 10 " ... \$3.00 Premium

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 22nd to 28th August

Days of Week or	Days of Month	HIGH WATER.				LOW WATER.			
		H'kong	Mean	H'kong	Mean	H'kong	Mean	H'kong	Mean
Wed.	22	12 12	5 7	6 52	2 6	13 55	5 6	4 48	2 5
Thurs.	23	0 12	5 1	6 48	2 8	13 53	5 8	4 46	2 7
Fri.	24	0 6	5 8	6 46	2 8	13 51	5 8	4 44	2 7
Satur.	25	1 11	6 0	6 44	2 8	13 49	5 8	4 42	2 7
Sun.	26	2 8	6 2	6 42	2 8	13 47	5 8	4 40	2 7
Mon.	27	3 17	6 4	6 40	2 8	13 45	5 8	4 38	2 7
Tues.	28	4 31	6 7	6 38	2 8	13 43	5 8	4 36	2 7

POST OFFICE NOTICE.

Particular outgoing and incoming Mails, other than those ... will not be advertised in future.

The Post Office will forward all correspondence posted by the ...

Correspondence addressed to many subjects in China, Siam, ...

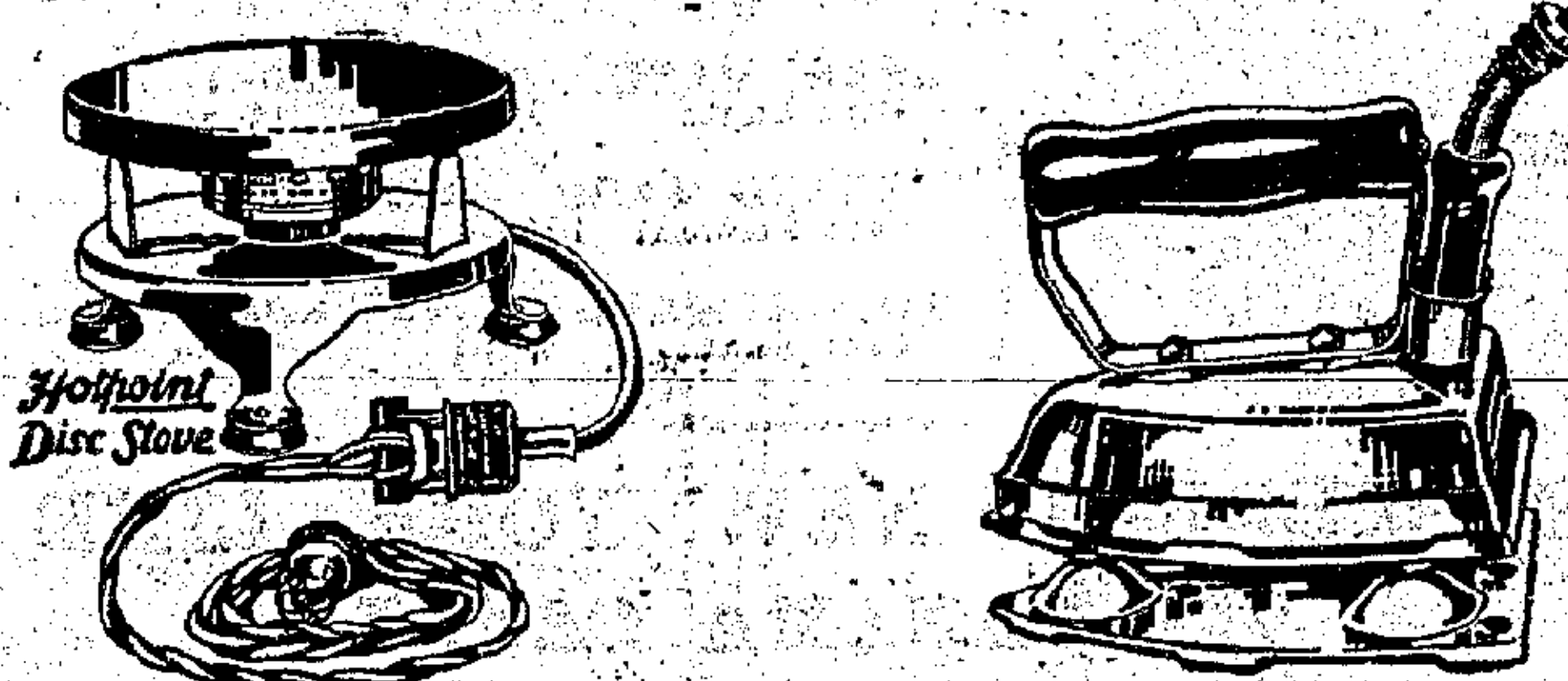
The Services to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

For	ON WEEK-DAYS	ON SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS
Tai O	5.00 P.M.	—
Tai Po	10.00 A.M.	9.30 A.M.
Cheung Chow	7.30 A.M.	—
Shateulok, Shatin and Shoungtshui	1.30 P.M.	—
Aberdeen, Antau, Ping Shan, Sai Kung	4.30 P.M.	—
Sauin, Stanley	—	—
Canton Samahni and Waimoi	7.30 A.M.	6.00 P.M.
Macao	7.15 A.M.	6.00 A.M.
Kowloon	1.30 P.M.	—
Samtan and Sammei	6.00 P.M.	5.00 P.M.
Shamshun	Saturdays 6.00 P.M.	5.00 P.M.
	Sundays 10.00 A.M.	9.00 A.M.
	4.00 P.M.	—

In this Sultry weather ELECTRICITY is a BOON and a BLESSING to men, but more especially to Ladies; Fans are all right, but there are other Blessings.—The HOT POINT fills the bill.

We have just received a new consignment of ELECTRIC HEATING and COOKING APPARATUS of the LATEST and MOST UP-TO-DATE DESIGN.



Toasters, Grill, Kettles, Irons, Sauce-pans, Immersion Heaters, Curling ... Hair dryers, Shaving pots, etc.

A visit to our Show-Room at No. 14, Des Voeux Road will interest you.

WM. C. JACK & CO., LTD., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, HONGKONG

SMOKED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

NEVSKY PROSPECT PETROGRAD

The "Three Castles" Cigarettes

Just Pure Rich Mellow Virginia Tobacco

THE CIGARETTE WITH THE PEDIGREE

IF YOU SMOKE A PIPE OF COURSE YOU SMOKE "CAPTAN NAVY CUT"

This advertisement is issued by the British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd.

BANKS

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital ... \$15,000,000

Reserve Funds: ... \$15,000,000

Sterling ... \$15,000,000

Silver ... \$15,000,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors ... \$33,500,000

Reserve Funds: ... \$15,000,000

GOVERNMENT OF DIRECTORS:

Hon. Mr. S. H. DONNELLY—Chairman.

Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK—Deputy Chairman.

Hon. Mr. C. E. ANTON, C. S. Gabbay, Esq.

F. C. Butler, Esq. E. V. D. Parr, Esq.

A. H. Compton, Esq. W. L. Patterson, Esq.

G. T. M. Edkins, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER: Hongkong—N. J. STABE, Esq.

MANAGER: Shanghai—A. G. STEPHEN, Esq.

LONDON BRANCH: LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

HONGKONG INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Account at the rate of Two per cent. per annum on the Daily Balance.

On Fixed Deposits.

For 3 months, 2 1/2 per cent. per annum.

" 6 " 3 " " "

" 12 " 4 " " "

N. J. STABE, Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 13th July, 1917. [9]

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 15, Gracechurch St., London

Authorized Capital ... £1,600,000

Subscribed ... 1,125,000

Paid-up ... 562,500

Reserve Fund ... 600,000

BANKERS:

THE BANK OF ENGLAND,

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

BRANCHES:

Bombay, Calcutta, Hongkong, Kanton, Shanghai, Singapore, etc.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

INTEREST allowed on Current Accounts at 2 per cent. per annum on Daily Balances.

and on Fixed Deposits at rates that may be ascertained on application.

C. CHAMPKIN, Acting Manager.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1916. [887]

BANKS

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LIMITED (TAIWAN GINKO).

INCORPORATED BY SPECIAL IMPERIAL CHARTER, 1899.

Capital Subscribed ... Yen 20,000,000

Capital Paid-up ... 15,000,000

Reserve Funds ... 5,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: TAIPEI, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES:

JAPAN—Kobe, Osaka, Tokyo, Yokohama.

FORMOSA—Alo, Gikan, Kagi, Karywen.

CHINA—Kanton, Shanghai, Swatow.

OTHERS—HONGKONG, LONDON, SINGAPORE.

Southern, Siam, and New York.

LONDON BANKERS:

Capital and Counties Bank, London, and South-Western Bank, Farn's Bank.

The Bank has Correspondents in the Chief mercantile centres of Russia, Manchuria, Indo China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia, America, and elsewhere.

Interest allowed on Current Accounts, Fixed Deposits, and Savings Deposits at rates which will be quoted on application.

N. YANAGITA, Manager.

HONGKONG BRANCH, 3, Des Voeux Road, Hongkong, 22nd May, 1917. [1504]

THE BANK OF CHINA GOVERNMENT BANK.

(SPECIALLY AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE OF 15TH APRIL, 1913.)

Authorized Capital ... \$50,000,000

Paid-up Capital ... \$10,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—PEKING.

BRANCHES AND SUB-BRANCHES:

SHANGHAI: Hankow, Chinkiang, Yangchow, Wanchow, Anshing, Tientsin, Tientsin, Nanchang, Soochow, Hangchow, Shanghai, etc.

CHINA: Peking, Tientsin, etc.

INDIA: Calcutta, Bombay, etc.

CEYLON: Colombo, etc.

AFRICA: Cape Town, etc.

Australia: Sydney, Melbourne, etc.

NEW ZEALAND: Auckland, etc.

AMERICA: San Francisco, etc.

EUROPE: London, etc.

Other branches in various parts of the world.

Interest allowed on current accounts and Fixed Deposits. Terms on application. Every description of Banking business transacted. Special facilities for Home Branches.

HONGKONG BRANCH, 18th October, 1914. [1839]